

4 January 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director, OPR
THROUGH: Special Assistant, OPR
FROM: Chief, Policies and Organizations Branch
SUBJECT: Report of Responses to Biweekly Questionnaire

In fulfillment of our dire predictions of the small number of returns we would be likely to receive, only about one-quarter (127) of the questionnaires inserted in 482 copies of the Biweekly were completed and returned to the EIC Secretariat. (In a last minute flush of optimism we had included 2 extra forms in each Biweekly which appear to have been largely unused.) Among the recipients of the largest number of Biweekly copies, the Department of State returned 36 percent of its questionnaires; the Department of Defense, 22 percent; and the Agency for International Development, only 15 percent -- probably all from Mr. Forrest himself, I'll wager! We made no serious effort to solicit returns from CIA, the issuing agency.

On the assumption -- a reasonable one I would think -- that the 127 completed returns represent a hard core of our most interested customers, the exercise may be regarded as an instructive one. Although some of the returned questionnaires were incomplete, the returns do suggest the following consensus.

- 80 suggest that the publication remain Biweekly
- 90 regard the background and details provided by the current articles as satisfactory
- 73 expressly do not want longer, more analytical pieces
- Only 21 use the Biweekly as a source of current information; the others use them as a supplementary source or for general background and reference
- 66 characterize the articles as "very" or "moderately" useful in formulating policy; 38 as of little use


Our most prominent respondent was Mr. Harold F. Linder, President, Ex-Im Bank, who reported that "These Biweekly reports are the only regularly received source of information which we have as to 'Eloc' lending activities in countries borrowing from the Ex-Im Bank. . . We trust that your reports will be continued."

In sum, the Biweekly, as presently constituted, seems to be meeting the needs of its recipients, and the Working Group recommends no fundamental revisions in our approach to the publication. There were, however, some suggestions of an editorial nature which seem well worth considering. It was suggested, for example, that we could effectively combine the Summary of Events with the Table of Contents by inserting the relevant page number after the brief summary of the article in the following manner.

- A. Resumption of Soviet Naval Deliveries to Algeria
Two SO-1 class subchasers arrived in Algiers late this year, and a third reportedly is on its way. In addition, a motor launch and other unidentified naval equipment recently have been delivered. 1

I shall take this and other similar suggestions up with St/PB at the earliest opportunity.

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